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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM No. 58 69

SUBJECT: Possible Communist Inspired Disturbances in Paris at time of the United Nations General Assembly

1. CIA believes that the present unstable economic and political situation in France might well be conducive to Communist-inspired disturbances which could be deliberately timed to coincide with the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. The situation in Paris differs considerably, however, from that which obtained in Bogota where the Communists seem to have exploited a non-Communist uprising in order to create an international incident and disrupt the Inter-American Conference. Communist objectives in creating disturbances in Paris to coincide with the UNGA would differ widely as would the nature of the disturbances. The USSR was not a conferee at Bogota, where the delegates were all from non- or anti-Communist nations. The Communists had much to gain by discrediting and obstructing US implementation of Western Hemisphere solidarity. At Paris, on the other hand, the USSR and its satellites probably will profess support for the UN, and in fact use it to further their policies. Should the Communists attempt to prevent the General Assembly from holding its meeting, they would be sabotaging an organization which in the past has been used by the USSR for important propaganda purposes.

2. It is probable, therefore, that any Communist action will be limited to aggravating already existing labor troubles and creating civil disorders through strikes, parades, and popular manifestations with the following objectives:

a. to increase the economic difficulties in France in order to demonstrate the "failure" of ERP, in the hope of undermining western European solidarity and US "control" of the Western bloc;

b. To draw attention to the Soviet stand on controversial issues before the UN as a means of embarrassing the US on such critical European matters as colonial affairs, German reparations, and the like.

c. to attempt to create, in conjunction with Berlin, another focal point of disturbance and unrest, clearly

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Communist-inspired, thereby giving evidence that even in the heart of western Europe strong Communist forces exist.

3. While it does not seem likely that the Communists would endeavor to prevent or interrupt the UNRRA meeting, disturbances as mentioned above are, in the opinion of CIA, highly possible. In view of the fact that an international meeting devoted to the discussion of explosive issues is coinciding with a domestic French economic and political crisis and a highly unstable international situation, CIA believes the situation warrants all possible precautionary measures. CIA further believes that the French security forces, if alerted and properly deployed, are capable of preventing serious disturbances, thus precluding the probability of a situation equalling the Bogota incident in violence.

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